DO NOT ENTER: /JH/

In the Specification:

Replace paragraph [0019] on page 2 with the following paragraph:

at least one roving package supported on a spindle is paid out via the outside, the rate of said pay-out being imposed by a motor ~~acting directly on~~ driving the roving package such that the roving is pushed from the roving package so that the linear speed of the paid-out roving is constant; then

Replace paragraph [0020] on page 2 with the following paragraph:

the roving passes through a nozzle, by passing through an entry and then an exit of the nozzle, said nozzle being also provided with a transverse injection of at least one fluid, said fluid being mainly ~~directed~~ introduced in a direction toward the exit of the nozzle, inducing a tension toward the bottom of the roving, said fluid also dividing the roving; and then

Replace paragraph [0026] on page 2 with the following paragraph:

at least one nozzle through which the roving passes, by passing via an inlet and then an outlet of the nozzle, said nozzle being also provided with a transverse injection of at least one fluid, said fluid being ~~directed~~ introduced in a direction mainly toward the exit of the nozzle, so as to induce a tension in the roving toward the exit; and

Replace paragraph [0033] beginning on page 2 with the following paragraph:

The injection of at least one fluid into the nozzle is transverse, between the entry and the exit. The fluid leaves the exit more easily than the entry, as the nozzle creates, with respect to the fluid, a larger head loss at the entry than at the exit. Such a difference in head loss may for example be produced by a difference in opening diameter. In general, the fluid may be compressed air. The pressure of the fluid may for example range from 2 to 10 bar and more generally from 3 to 8 bar. As shown in Fig. 1, the ~~The~~ fluid is mainly introduced in a direction ~~directed~~ toward the exit, which

means that more than half of the flux entering leaves via the exit (generally directed downward). The fluid injected into the nozzle has two functions:

Replace paragraph [0037] on page 3 with the following paragraph:

In addition to the splaying fluid, the nozzle may also be fed with water. This water serves firstly to make the roving heavier, in order to influence its path that it follows when thrown onto the conveyor belt (by increasing the drop angle of the splayed roving). The water may also contribute, as fluid, to generating tension in the roving. The weight of the roving when vertical also contributes to tensioning the roving. In addition to the splaying fluid, a dilute aqueous solution or dispersion containing an active substance may also be fed into the nozzle in order to impregnate the roving, so as to give the mat particular properties such as the formation of a thin surface film, or better compatibility with the material to be reinforced. Thus, according to the invention, the speed of the roving is imposed by the motor that ~~acts directly on~~ drives the package such that the roving is pushed from the roving package. The action of the splaying fluid in the nozzle and the weight of the roving do not modify the speed of the roving, but only its tension.

Replace paragraph [0048] on page 3 with the following paragraph:

The roving package 1 is ~~actuated directly~~ driven by a motor 19, for example via a cogged belt 20, such that the roving is pushed from the roving package. The package 1 pays out a roving 2 that is not yet divided. The roving passes through the ring (or eyelet) 3, the function of which is to correctly position the roving opposite the pulley 4. The roving passes over this pulley 4 so as to be sent downward. A light ray passes transversely, just beside the roving, at the point 5, thereby making it possible to detect any increase in diameter of the roving (cut-off of the light ray is detected by a photoelectric cell that forces the roving to stop being paid out and actuates the strand cutter 7). The roving then passes through an eyelet 6, the opening of which is equal to that of the nozzle 8. Thus, any strand too thick to pass through the nozzle would be

stopped by the eyelet 6. Beneath the eyelet 6 is a strand cutter 7. This strand cutter may be actuated manually at any time or by an automatic mechanism following the detection of too large a diameter at the point 5. A light ray coupled to a photoelectric cell detects the presence or otherwise of the roving at the point 9. The roving then passes through the nozzle 8 via its entry 10, and leaves via its exit 11. The nozzle includes an air injection 12 and a water injection 13. The air injection forces the strand to be divided into its base strands in the nozzle and the roving leaves the nozzle divided into individual strands. The nozzle 8 is fixed substantially at its entry 10 to a plate 14, which is itself connected to a motor 15. The motor gives the nozzle an oscillatory movement from one side to the other, in the manner of the balance wheel of a clock, which makes the roving falling downward cover the width of the belt 16 that is running beneath it. The splayed roving is received on said belt as a continuous strand mat. The plate 14 has another nozzle 17 capable of taking over from the first nozzle when the latter is no longer delivering (the package is empty or there is a problem requiring it to be stopped). It should be imagined that to an entire installation (not shown in order to simplify the figure) equivalent to that just described in the case of the nozzle 8 (package, eyelets, pulley, etc.) corresponds to this nozzle 17. To give an illustration, the linear (constant) speed of the roving 2 of the order of 8 m/s and, depending on the outside diameter of the package 1, the angular speed of the roving leaving the package 1 varies from 500 rpm to 2000 rpm.